AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is related to co-pending divisional U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 11/046,997, filed on January 31, 2005, entitled, "PLUGGABLE FORMATTERS".

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1 illustrates a system 10 for implementing pluggable formatters for serialization of a graph of objects into a serial stream in accordance with one aspect of the present invention. The system 10 includes a decision module 18 that is responsible for retrieving objects within an object graph 22 and pushing those objects to a data structure 24. The decision module 18 determines if an object within the object graph was previously retrieved, and assigns objects an object ID *via* an object ID generator 20 if that object had not been previously retrieved. The decision module 18 or the object ID generator 20 maintains an object list for tracking previously retrieved objects. Once it is determined if the object was or was not previously retrieved and the object ID is assigned to that object, the decision module invokes a serialization selector 16. The serialization selector 16 matches a rule set 12 from a plurality of rule sets 14 to a particular object type or informs the decision module 18 where to find a rule set for the particular object type. The object can contain information that associates that object with a rule set and invokes methods of the rule set, for example, by implementing an interface or by inheriting methods of a base class.[[.]]

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